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Sewerage system of Brunswick, Ga.

BRUNSWICK, GA., *December 23, 1899.*

SIR: I have this morning received a request from your office—under initial McE.—that I should forward to your office copies of any plans and specifications I may have of the new system of sewerage introduced into the city of Brunswick. The plans of the system are all drawn at a scale of 30 feet to the inch, and are very elaborate and bulky, as the aggregate length of the system is over 14 miles. I have two copies bound in a heavy book. Should you desire it I could copy, on a reduced scale this work, but it would take some time. If the object of the department is only to ascertain the sanitary theory of the system, I take pleasure in giving an accurate account of the system and the manner of its working.

First. The system is one in which the sewage is first led by one or more mains placed generally 12 feet below the ground into a reservoir or well; thence it is pumped and discharged into the river, which river is a salt (or nonpotable) one. The width of the river is 700 feet, and its general depth 20 to 25 feet. This pumping system was necessary on account of the low elevation of the city, which, had the gravity system been adopted, would have had to encounter the tide-locking at high water or twice in twenty-four hours. These mains, 3 in number, are of iron (cast) 24 by 16 inches, and 13 inches in diameter. At the intersections of all streets with these mains is constructed a manhole 4 feet in diameter, and rising to the surface with close fitting iron covers. From these manholes diverge the laterals or sewage collectors, which by "Y's" connect to houses on each side of the street. These laterals are 8-inch terra cotta with Stanford joints, and are 5 to 6 feet under the soil, and so from the house the sewage passes to the laterals, and from the laterals to the mains, and from the mains to the pumping well, from the well into the iron discharge pipe, and into the river 75 feet beyond low watermark, and into the 30 feet of water.

Parallel to all mains and laterals and at equal depths are laid 3 by 5 inch draining tiles, which empty the subsoil water into the same manhole as its twin lateral. At the head of each lateral is constructed a flush tank of 160-gallon capacity, fitted with a Rhodes-Williams automatic siphon. A water supply pipe is fitted into the tank which runs continually. As soon as the tank fills the siphon discharges at once the 160 gallons into the lateral, thus clearing and scouring out the pipe. I regulate the faucet to the water pipe so that it discharges 3 times in every twenty-four hours. The subsoil addition to the sewage pipe has, to my own knowledge, lowered the level of retained water more than 2½ feet since its inauguration. No storm water or discharges from roofs, machinery, or manufactories is permitted to enter the system—its duty is only to get rid of sewage, bath and kitchen sinks, and such wastes.

The pipes, both iron and terra cotta, are laid on piles, 2 to each joint; the "Y's" for house connection are placed 20 feet apart on each side of the pipe, so that there may be no necessity for future breaking into the sewage for making new connections. Only one house is allowed to each "Y." The grade of the city sewer depends upon its diameter; the fall is always 1 foot to half the diameter, multiplied by 100 feet. For instance, 8-inch sewer—8″ divided by 2 = 4 × 100 = 400. The fall is 1 foot to 400 feet.

If you desire, I can make the copies if so instructed.

Respectfully, CHARLES S. WYLLY,
City Engineer.